
From: Dohoney, Courtney
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 2:27 PM
To: Anthony Tur (anthony_tur@fws.gov)
Cc: Belin, Daniel; Powell, Brenda A.; Meegan, Sean; Mills, Brian; Callaghan, Caitlin; Travis Beck; Kent Sharp
Subject: RE: Northern Pass Transmission Line EIS 3rd-Party Bat Review
Attachments: 9_Draft Northern Pass EIS_Chapter 4.docx

Tony,

To conclude transfer of the Indiana bat related information for the Northern Pass DEIS, attached please find Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences. As with Chapter 3, there are multiple locations for discussion of the potential Indiana bat impacts within this chapter. Section 4.1.11 provides a general discussion of the project's potential impacts on Indiana bats, subsequently for each section (Northern, Central, Southern, and WMNF) and alternative (Alternative 1 through 6b) there is a discussion of the potential impact, although many sections refer back to previous alternatives/sections. For your reference here's representative text from the Central Section discussion for Alternative 2 (Proposed Action):

Bat species may also be impacted by fragmentation and removal of forest and woodland habitats. Bat species such as the Indiana bat typically roost near forest edges or openings, fragmentation does decrease connectivity between forest/woodland habitats. Project-specific surveys identified possible Indiana bats at multiple survey sites within Grafton County, although, no historical records regarding the Indiana bat exist for Grafton or Belknap counties (NHFG 2005a). In addition, eastern small-footed and northern long-eared bats may be impacted by fragmentation and removal of forest and woodland habitats. Summer roosts located near the study area could be separated from foraging habitat, resulting in a decrease of connectivity between forest/woodland habitats. Potential impacts on summer roosting habitat are expected to be long-term. However, more than 1.1 million acres (445,344 ha) of forestland in Grafton and Belknap counties, NH, would remain undisturbed during construction would continue to provide suitable habitat. The removal of approximately 198 acres [80 ha]) of forestland would represent less than 0.1 percent of the overall forestland habitats available to wildlife within the counties. Included in **Appendix H** are APMs specific to bat species, and would require that tree removal occurs during bat hibernation periods. Implementation of this APM would avoid impacts to bat species.

Again, please let us know if you have any questions regarding the Indiana bat text in Chapter 4 of the Draft Northern Pass EIS.

If you could please confirm receipt of the three emails today regarding Indiana bat information, I would appreciate it.

Thanks,
Courtney

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From: Dohoney, Courtney
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Anthony Tur (anthony_tur@fws.gov)
Cc: Belin, Daniel; Powell, Brenda A.; Meegan, Sean; Mills, Brian; Callaghan, Caitlin; Travis Beck; Kent Sharp
Subject: RE: Northern Pass Transmission Line EIS 3rd-Party Bat Review

Tony,

Per my email earlier this afternoon, I'm attaching Chapter 3: Affected Environment from the Northern Pass Transmission Draft EIS that is currently being reviewed by Cooperating Agencies. To make sure the files make it through, I'll send Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences separately. Any discussion of Indiana bats is included within the "Wildlife" section. Please note that there is a general discussion of Indiana bats in the Section 3.1.11 (General Affected Environment) and then a more detailed discussion of their presence within the Northern, Central, Southern, and WMNF sections in Sections 3.2.11, 3.3.11, 3.4.11 and 3.5.11, respectively.

If you have any questions regarding the text related to Indiana bats in Chapter 3 of the DEIS please let us know.

Thanks,
Courtney

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From: Dohoney, Courtney
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 2:04 PM
To: Anthony Tur (anthony_tur@fws.gov)
Cc: Belin, Daniel; Powell, Brenda A.; Meegan, Sean; Mills, Brian; Callaghan, Caitlin; Travis Beck; Kent Sharp
Subject: Northern Pass Transmission Line EIS 3rd-Party Bat Review

Tony,
As follow-up to the meeting last week in Concord, the SE Group Team is providing copies of the two outside expert opinions that we obtained to review the acoustic monitoring data from 2013 that we collected along the proposed route. Attached are the two reports that were prepared by our experts: Ryan Allen (Bat Call Identification, Inc.) and Chris Corben (BatSense). For your reference, I'm also attaching the SE Group Team excerpt for the bat surveys from our 2013-2014 Field Survey Report that we previously provided you. Note that the detector locations that are referenced in BatSense and BCIDs reports are consistent with the numbering of detectors as depicted in the project area map that's included in the SE Group Team report excerpt.

In a separate email we will also provide you with a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement so that you can review the sections in the text that currently address Indiana bats.

If you have any questions about our bat report or the two reports provided by our outside experts, please let me know.

Thanks,
Courtney

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